

FARM AND ORCHARD

Select Seed Corn Early
An enormous loss, which will probably amount to several thousands of dollars, is sustained each year by the farmers of Michigan, through the lack of proper attention to the selection and preservation of their seed corn. The average yield of corn in Michigan for the last ten years has been 33.5 bushels per acre, yet many farmers in the state are getting much larger yields than that and on land of only average productiveness. In 1915 there were 1,750,000 acres of corn grown in Michigan yielding 56,000,000 bushels, yet by the proper selection and care of seed corn the yield could have been increased from five to ten bushels more per acre, which would have meant 7,000,000 to 15,000,000 more bushels of corn for the whole state. This would have meant that each farmer would have made from three to six dollars more per acre from the crop, based upon the average price of the last ten years.

There is an abundance of evidence which shows that the average farmer does not secure more than a 75 per cent stand of stalks in the field, while it would be easily possible for him to secure a 90 to 95 per cent stand, and there is no reasonable excuse for having less than a 90 per cent stand. Besides, we should remember that it takes just as much labor to plow and fit the land or cultivate a crop of corn having a 75 per cent stand as it does

for one having a 90 per cent stand. There is no doubt that a well prepared seed bed, a plentiful supply of plant food and the proper tillage are all very important in successful corn production, but good seed is also absolutely necessary for maximum production.

In order to secure good seed corn we should not only see the characteristics that each individual ear possesses, but also those which the stalk that bears the ear shows. This comparison of ear and stalk is impossible to make if the seed corn is selected at husking time or from the crib the following spring. It is the aim of field selection to get fair-sized ears from stalks that have produced these ears under average or slightly crowded conditions, rather than from stalks that have had more than their share of sunlight and plant food due to a poor stand. Practically any stalk will produce a good ear under very favorable conditions, but it takes a vigorous, thrifty stalk to produce a good ear under average or slightly crowded conditions, rather than from stalks that have had more than their share of sunlight and plant food due to a poor stand.

The best time to set seed corn is at the time of maturity. Take a sack and go through the best portions of your field and select good looking well matured ears that are borne on medium-sized stalks, at a slight angle to prevent water from enter-

ing the tip. These ears should come from thrifty, vigorous looking stalks, that stand up well, have a good leaf development and of a size that will mature in an average season. Then, rather than select just enough ears for your next season's planting, select two or three times as many as you need, so that you may go over them later and select for a uniform type of ear.

In general, there are three things which should be kept in mind in field selection of seed corn:

1. Select well matured ears of a variety capable of maturing before killing frosts.
2. Select ears borne at an angle and at a medium height on the stalk.
3. Select ears from strong, healthy, vigorous stalks, with good brace root development and a good growth of leaves.

The Seed Filing Cabinet

It certainly does not pay to save poor seed from any plant on the farm, but I believe that many farmers who save little of their own seed are raising a much better article than they can buy on the market the next spring. Saving vegetable and flower seed is a practical way of reducing the expense of the spring gardening and when the seed are saved from strong vigorous plants and then properly cleaned and dried before being stored for the winter they are certainly as good as the average quality seed which we purchase at the seed stores.

If a spool cabinet can be obtained at one of the local stores it forms an ideal seed filing device and the sections in the drawers can be divided according to the quantity and number of the varieties which are to be stored. In this way flower and vegetable seeds can be saved every year and without expense except for labor and fertilizer the flower and vegetable gardens can be started with fresh vigorous seed. In many instances neighbors can trade their seeds to advantage and in this way a large variety of plants grown in the home garden. This is especially desirable with flower seed as many flower seeds are rather expensive if purchased in the small brightly colored envelopes displayed in the stores. In case a larger cabinet is desired it can be made on the same plan as an office filing system and the large drawers can be included to hold bulbs. Such a storage system can be placed in the attic where it is dry but not too warm, and there is no draught to blow the seeds away when the drawers are opened for inspection.

In the fall and winter it is well to take an inventory of the seeds that have been raised on the farm for the spring planting and then study reliable catalogues to determine the varieties of flowers and vegetables which will be needed in addition to the home-raised seed. If these orders are placed before spring there is no danger of the seed arriving late and causing a delay in the planting work. On the arrival of the seed it should be examined and carefully stored in the seed cabinet where they will be ready for the spring work whenever the best weather for the planting arrives. It will even be possible to conduct germination tests long before the time of planting and in this way any seeds that do not prove good may be discarded and replaced before the date of sowing the garden.

POULTRY CONSULTING DEPARTMENT

Watering the Farm Flock

The farm flock will need an abundant supply of fresh water during the autumn and as other duties will be pressing much attention to the farm will probably be too busy to water the birds more than twice each day. For this reason large receptacles are much better than the shallow pans which are soon scratched full of litter. An ordinary water pail placed on a raised platform will be the most satisfactory for watering the old birds and possibly one pail per day placed in a shady spot will be enough for 100 hens. A solution of permanganate of potash should be used at all seasons of the year as drinking water in an impure condition is a serious menace and results in much disease. Keep a large bottle of thick permanganate solution near the well and add enough to make the water dark red when the drinking pail is filled with fresh supply.

A dead hen is not necessary to prove to you that the hens need a cleaner water supply. Many times dead hens are better than unproductive hens which waste the feed and it is the flock just sick enough to eat without laying which will bankrupt the practical poultryman. In poultry farming it is necessary to learn that preventing disease is much more important than curing it and the prevention begins with the clean water pail.

Young chicks cannot drink from a large pail, and even deep pans may be the cause of drowned chicks. Shallow pans soon become very unclean and the only solution is the home-made fountain. Take a thoroughly clean gallon paint can or a lard pail and drive a spike through the side two or three times about half an inch from the top. Fill this with clean water and invert it in a shallow pan, just a little larger in diameter. The chicks will then have fresh water for several hours if the receptacle is placed in a shady spot and very little of the litter will be scratched into the dish if it is placed two or three inches above the level of the brooder floor. It is also advisable to use permanganate of potash in the water fountains used for young chicks. The dishes should be scalded frequently. The best of poultry feeding will not make a flock profitable unless the fowls have constant access to a supply of fresh clean water.

How Many Hens to a Pen?

It is a matter of importance to determine how many laying hens may be profitably and practically kept in a poultry house. This is more true in a climate where the weather demands a carefully constructed building for winter housing. The opinion is quite generally held that when kept in yards or allowed to roam at will hens do best in flocks of about 40 to 50, and that when confined in winter quarters each laying hen requires about 10

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON FOR OCT. 8

SECURED EXCLUSIVELY BY THE BANNER FOR ITS MANY READERS

ACCORDING TO THE INTERNATIONAL SERIES

Text of the Lesson, Acts xxiv, 10-21. Memory Verses, 14, 15—Golden Acts xxiv, 16—Commentary Prepared by Rev. D. M. Stearns.

This chapter gives us Paul's testimony before the high priest and the elders from Jerusalem, at Caesarea, in the presence of the governor Felix, and also some account of one of Paul's talks with Felix and his wife Drusilla. The persecutors from Jerusalem brought with them an orator who, with flattery for Felix, did a large amount of lying against Paul, which the Jews endorsed, saying that these things were so (verses 1-9). Paul denied their accusations and defied them to prove what they said and then stated the case truthfully (verses 10-13). His confession that he believed all things which are written in the law and in the prophets (verse 14) reminds us that our Lord said that the two with whom He walked to Emmaus were foolish in not doing so, and also that He expounded from Moses and the prophets and the psalms the things concerning Himself, saying that all must be fulfilled (Luke xxiv, 25-27, 44).

It is counted hereby even now by many supposedly orthodox preachers to look for a literal Israel to occupy the land given to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and a literal kingdom of God on earth with Israel as a center, who shall, as a nation made righteous by receiving Jesus Christ as their Messiah when He shall come in His glory, then bring blessing to all nations. I have been told to my face by a teacher of large Bible classes that the Jews were no more to God than the Indians of our country, but I am still believing God and standing with our Lord and with Paul and expect so to continue by His grace. As to the resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust, when understood in the light of all Scripture, that also is most simple and helpful.

All the dead shall rise; that is clear not only from lesson verse 15, but also from our Lord's own words in John v, 28, 29, with Dan. xii, 2. That the hour of John v, 28, may, and will, cover a thousand years is easy from the fact that the hour of John v, 25, has already covered nearly 1,900 years. In Luke xiv, 14, the resurrection of the just is spoken of as a time of reward for the righteous, and I Cor. xv, 23, says "They that are Christ's at His coming." In Rev. xx, 5, 6, it is written that those who do not take part in the first resurrection will not rise till the end of the thousand years. There is no foundation in the Scriptures for the thought that our resurrection takes place when we die or for the use of the words at a funeral "he is not here, he is risen," for those words were used of the literal resurrection body of our Lord. There is no foundation for the thought of a general resurrection of all good and bad, at what is called the last day.

square feet of floor space.

The size of the flock which may be profitably kept in a pen of definite size has been reported by the Maine Experiment Station. The station poultry building contained 15 pens alike in size and arrangement of window space, and gravel, bone, and water dishes. The pens were 10x16 feet, and the entire floor space, 160 square feet, was available, since the walk used by the attendants was elevated above the floor. The tests were made with four lots of 15 pullets each, four lots of 20, four of 25 and three of 30. The breeds selected were Brahma and Barred Plymouth Rocks, there being eight lots of the former and seven of the latter. With each breed the lots contained from 15 to 39 individuals. The experimental conditions would give the lots containing 15 pullets 10.6 square feet of floor space each, and lots containing 20 pullets eight square feet each, those containing 25 birds, 6.4 square feet, and those containing 30 fowls 3.5 square feet.

Care was taken to have the individuals in the lots as uniform as possible in form, size and vigor. At the pullets were hatched, were in May, with the exception of the one with 15, which was hatched about two weeks earlier. The test began in November and continued six months. Careful records of the egg production, etc., were kept. The results with the different lots of the same size were found to be quite uniform. The lots containing 20 hens gave a greater total net profit per lot than did those containing any greater or less number of hens. Lots of 25 hens gave slightly greater net returns than did the 15-hen lots. The lots that had 30 birds each gave very much less net returns than did any others. The average net profit per hen, however, steadily decreased as the number of hens per pen increased, being 80 cents per hen during the six months with the lots of 15, and only 30 cents with the lots of 30. This would indicate that for best results we should allow each hen from eight to ten square feet.

How to Free the Place of Rats

"When I was a boy our farm was alive with rats," remarked a Grand Rapids banker. "We noticed the rats were eating the grain and water of a sitting hen in a corner of the barn. So when the hen hatched and was moved we put strychnine in the water, and the first night killed twenty-three rats and the second nineteen. "Besides this a good many more went away to die. The best way to get rid of rats is to make them accustomed to drink at one place and then poison the water."

Good Roads Department

Conducted Especially for the Banner by Hon. P. T. Colgrove, President of the Michigan Good Roads Association.

Road Maintenance

In speaking of road maintenance W. W. Cox, district engineer had the following to say at the recent meeting of the state good roads association:

"Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen: Regarding the subject of Road Maintenance, I think perhaps most of you have heard considerable from our department about it, and I suppose if we were to ride around over the country and view the roads you would still hear some more, so I am going to try to cover the whole field of road maintenance here this afternoon, but only in a general way.

There are two kinds of road maintenance in use. The one is spasmodic and consists of a sort of gang system in which every once in a while the roads are gone over, patched up and various things done to them. The other is the patrol system which is taking the place of the gang system almost entirely as fast as the roads are constructed to any extent.

"The question always arises, when shall maintenance begin? When shall we first think of it? The time to first think of it is when you begin to build the road. If you do not provide proper drainage and the materials which the road demands at that time, you will be forced to do it later—after the road is constructed. "How long shall we wait before our maintenance begins? There is no waiting. Material of the same quality as that of which the road is constructed should be stocked along the side of the road, and maintenance should start the next day. The amount of maintenance necessary for the following week or month depends upon the character of the road, the character of the traffic, together with the climatic or weather conditions.

"I will speak first about the general appearance of the roads. The general appearance of the roads has a whole lot to do with the attitude of the taxpayer. The ordinary person interested in roads thinks about this. If your road has grown up to brush, if grass is allowed to accumulate in the water ways, if there are dangerous curves, and high fills which ought to be guard-railed and if danger signals are not put up at sharp curves or any of those things lacking, such a road is not complete and does not make a hit with the ordinary man who uses it.

"Therefore I say the first thing to do is to keep appearance of the road good. To do this it is necessary to cut away the brush once a year, clear out the grass and weeds two or three times a year and at all times keep a clear view for 200 or 300 feet.

"We have heard today a good deal on road maintenance, about the patching of surfaces, of the different types of roads, concrete, gravel, etc., but there was one point which I don't believe was mentioned very strongly, if at all, which I feel is of more importance to the average road than any other one thing. Within the last month or two it has been my opportunity and a part of my work to go over the old state reward roads in southwestern Michigan, covering perhaps four hundred miles in the state. In looking over my notes and different reports invariably I have found out that the trouble is a question of drainage. The ditches might have been deep enough in the first instance or they might have been sufficient to carry away the water under ordinary circumstances but today it is drainage more than anything else which our roads need by way of maintenance. Ditches should be kept free and open, and the outlets provided so as to take away the water. I venture to say that every man in this audience at some time in the past spring has seen the necessity on our roads for more drainage outlets.

"As you know, the Supreme Court decision on the matter of driveways is to the effect that the man along the road shall provide his own means of getting onto the road, and in about 90 per cent of the cases where this means has been provided it has been inadequate. In fact he has usually damaged the ditch instead of making an outlet. It is very good practice, although it is not necessary under the Supreme Court ruling for counties and townships to put in driveways and suitable headwalls to stop leaves, grass, etc., and keep them from freezing, bursting or clogging up.

Belding Market Quotations

The price of butter fat shows an advance of 1c, butter, 2c, and eggs have taken a jump of 6c since last week. Wheat, oats and rye are also on the increase.

The live hog market is down from 9 1/2-10c to 9c.

Corrected Tuesday, Oct. 3, 1916

PRODUCE	
Butter Fat	34
Butter	30
Eggs	30
MEATS	
Beef, live	5 1/2-6
Beef, dressed	11-12
Veal Calves, live	9-9 1/2
Hogs, per cwt	9
Hogs, dressed	12 1/2
Sheep, live	5
Lambs, live	7 1/2-8
POULTRY	
Chicken, live	13
Chickens, dressed	16
GRAIN	
Oats	45
Wheat No. 1, white	1.44
Wheat No. 2, red	1.44
Rye	1.15
Beans	4.50
Cloverseed	8.00
HAY AND STRAW	
Timothy, baled	10.00
Wheat, rye, baled	6.00
FEEDS—RETAIL	
Bran	1.50
Middlings	1.80
Scratch Feed, (no grit)	2.25
Corn Meal	1.90
Corn and Oat Chop	1.80
Potatoes	1.00

Keeps Your Stove Shining Bright

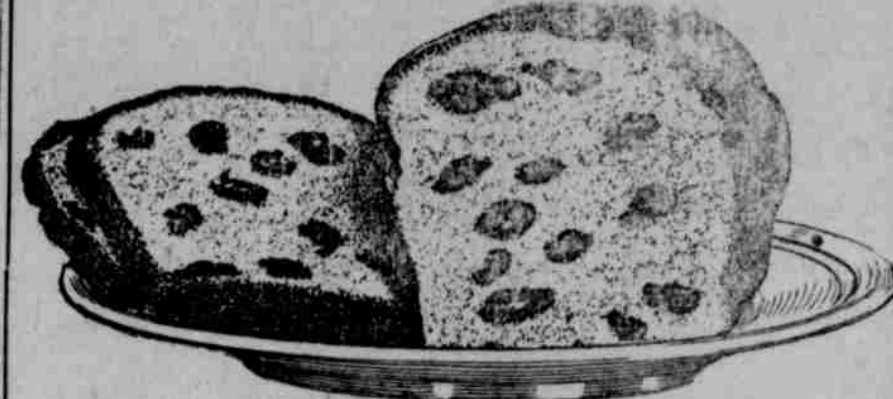
Gives a brilliant glossy shine that does not rub off or dust off—that anneals to the iron—that lasts four times as long as any other.

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Auction Sales

And The Successful Way to Advertise Them

Experience has demonstrated that a successful auction sale depends largely upon two essentials: (1) Thorough Advertising; (2) A competent auctioneer. This community has some very capable auctioneers, so that need can be easily supplied.

The BANNER, which covers the entire field and reaches nine out of every ten homes, furnishes the medium through which an auction may be thoroughly advertised in every district adjacent to Belding. So completely does the BANNER do its work of giving publicity to an auction sale that many of the best sales have been conducted without a single bill being posted. People have come to expect that a sale that is to be held in this vicinity will surely be announced in this paper; and if they are interested they save the BANNER for reference, which could not be done with an auction bill.

The cost of the service is far less in the BANNER way of handling sales, because it saves practically all the time formerly used in putting up bills. And counting four readers for each copy, over 8500 people have a chance to see the adv. in the BANNER where only a few hundred would see the bills, which would be soon destroyed by the wind and rain.

Furthermore, past experience has shown that the best buyers at an auction sale are those who come from a distance, attracted because they have read about it in the BANNER, and came because they were interested in buying some article or articles listed in the advertisement. These people would never have heard of the auction if advertised in the old way with just auction bills, or if advertised in a paper that covered only a part of the territory.

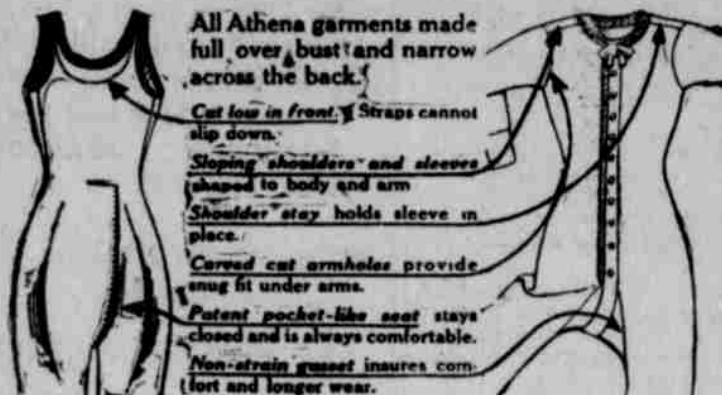
The BANNER has advertised over 100 auction sales in the past eight years, and was never in better position to give satisfactory service than now.

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